GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2765
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2015
Desert Land
Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The total desert area along with the percentage of population density therein in the country, State-wise;

(b) Whether any scheme has been introduced/ proposed to be introduced for development of desert land;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reason therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (d) The details of the total desert area along with the population density State-wise as provided by the Registrar General of India & Census Commissioner are at Annexure. These desert districts were identified on the recommendations of the "Hanumantha Rao Committee Report - Report of the Technical Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme (April 1994)". The Department of Land Resources had implemented a scheme called the Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis between 1995-96 to 2006-07 in 40 districts of seven States. 15746 projects covering an area of 45.7949 million hectare had been taken up under DDP. The DDP alongwith the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP) were integrated into a single modified programme called the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. One of the criteria which have been adopted for the allocation of area among the States is "identified DDP/DPAP areas in the State as percentage of total DPAP and DDP area in the country". The objectives of IWMP include harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water; prevention of soil run-off; rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table; increasing the productivity of crops; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities; promoting sustainable livelihoods and increasing the household incomes.

From 2015-16, the IWMP is amalgamated as the Watershed component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).

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